PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Roy R. CASIANO et al.

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: March 11, 2004 Docket No.: 115632

For: A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

. PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the following:

Amendments to the Specification;

Remarks.